REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-11, 16, and 18-30 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 11, 16, and 26 are amended. Claims 2 and 17 are canceled. Claims 1 and 16 are amended to include the features of claims 2 and 17. Claims 11 and 26 are amended to be consistent with amended claim 1. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

I. **35 U.S.C. § 103(a), Alleged Obviousness, Claims 1-6, 11, 16, 21, 26-28 and 30**

The Office Action rejects claims 1-6, 11, 16, 21, 26-28 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Guck, U.S. Patent No. 5,848,415. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As to claims 1-6, 11, 16, 21, 26-28 and 30, the Office Action states:

> As to claims 1, 16 and 26, Guck teaches a method, program and system in a data processing system for converting content using a set of converters comprising:
> receiving a request for the content from a client, wherein the request includes a set of characteristics (see col. 4 lines 35-44)
> selecting a converter from the set of converters having a best match to the set of characteristics, wherein selecting a converter from the set of converters includes using the set of characteristics to perform a lookup of a converter corresponding to one or more characteristics in the set of characteristics in a converter data structure having entries for a plurality of converters (see col. 4 lines 47-63)
> converting the content using the converter to form converted content (see col. 4 lines 47-63).
> Guck does not explicitly teach selecting a transcoder from a set of transcoders. However, the transcoder as defined by the specification of the application is an element that translates content from one format to another. Official notice is taken that one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would be motivated to select a replace the converter taught by Guck with a transcoder because doing so would also achieve Guck's goal which is to convert data into a format compatible with the client.

Office Action dated September 23, 2004, pages 2-3.

The Office bears the burden of establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness based on the prior art when rejecting claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103. *In re Fritch*, 972 F.2d 1260, 23 U.S.P.Q.2d 1780 (Fed. Cir. 1992). For an invention to be prima facie

obvious, the prior art must teach or suggest all claim limitations. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974).

Amended independent claim 1, which is representative of claims 11, 16, and 26 with regard to similarly recited subject matter, now recites:

> 1.   A method in a data processing system for transcoding content using a set of transcoders, the method comprising:
>   receiving a request for the content from a client, wherein the request includes a set of characteristics;
>   selecting a transcoder from the set of transcoders having a best match to the set of characteristics, wherein selecting a transcoder from the set of transcoders includes using the set of characteristics to perform a lookup of a transcoder corresponding to one or more characteristics in the set of characteristics in a transcoder data structure having entries for a plurality of transcoders; and
>   transcoding the content using the transcoder to form transcoded content, wherein <u>the set of transcoders includes one or more specific transcoders and one or more generic transcoders, and wherein if none of the one or more specific transcoders are a best match to the set of characteristics, a generic transcoder is selected</u>.
> (emphasis added)

Guck does not teach or suggest a set of transcoders that includes one or more specific transcoders and one or more generic transcoders, and wherein if none of the one or more specific transcoders are a best match to the set of characteristics, a generic transcoder is selected. As discussed in the Abstract, Guck teaches a content server that uses an object database loaded with virtual objects to support a network of multiple user clients. The virtual objects constitute source documents in the form of a multiplicity of resource objects, which may be file-oriented objects or message-oriented objects. The resource objects enable the format of any source document to convert to another format compatible for transport via an appropriate protocol to a requesting client user. The resource objects include a multiplicity of converter objects which are defined and placed in the database to provide format transformation from the format of the original source document content into the format required by a calling requester. The object database is searched to find the proper converter object to transform the contents of the source document into the required format for the calling requester's facilities or for transmittal to a digital appliance in a protocol appropriate to the receiving requester or digital appliance.

However, Guck does not teach or suggest a set of transcoders that includes one or more specific transcoders and one or more generic transcoders or if none of the one or more specific transcoders are a best match to the set of characteristics, a generic transcoder is selected. The Office Action alleges that Guck teaches these features at column 5, lines 54-65, which reads as follows:

> The term "format" refers to the specific arrangement of data on a disk or other storage media in order to meet established application requirements. For example, a file can be stored in the format of a certain application, such as Microsoft Word; an international standard format such as Hyper Text Language (HTML); or a generic application "neutral" format, such as "plain text". In addition to their use within disk files, format can also be used within portions of messages sent over a network. For example, an "attachment" within an email message can utilize a specific format such as plain text or HTML.

In the above section, Guck merely teaches the format in which a file may be stored, whether it is in a specific format, such as Microsoft Word, or a generic application "neutral" format, such as "plain text." However, Guck does not mention anything about specific transcoders, generic transcoders, or selecting a generic transcoder if none of the specific transcoders are a best match to a set of characteristics. **Figure 5** of Guck, which describes a set of converters in a "converter object hierarchy" is shown below:
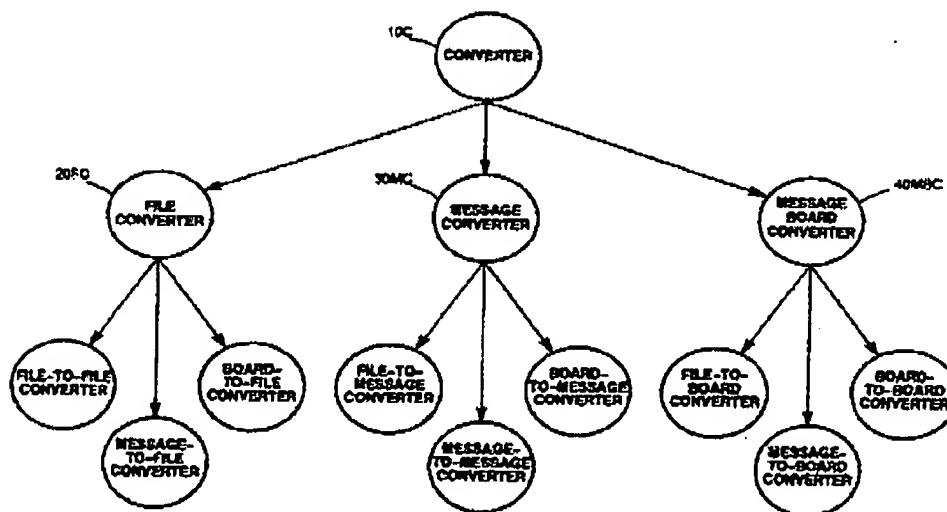

Figure 5

As shown in **Figure 5** and at column 10, line 30 to column 11, line 30, Guck teaches that the server process attempts to locate a "converter" object which will convert the content into a compatible format. The database process 58 possesses the object hierarchy based on the converter type at the root of the hierarchy (10C). The converter type is divided into subtypes that represent "output resource" types (20FC, 30MC, and 40MBC) and each output resource type is further divided into subtypes that represent an "input resource". The bottom most or "leaf" converter types have additional "properties" which further define the kind of conversion that objects of that type will perform.

When the server process searches the hierarchy which can convert the document to a format which the client can handle, the server process can locate a converter object that satisfies not only a resource conversion due to protocol requirements (e.g., accessing a file via a message protocol or vice versa), but a format conversion as well (e.g., accessing a JPEG image when a GIF image is required). If no converter objects exists that will satisfy the required conversion, either an error is returned to the client, or the document is returned "as is" to the client anyway.

Thus, while Guck teaches searching for a converter based on an input resource type, output resource type, or the type of conversion, Guck does not teach or suggest any specific transcoder, generic transcoder, or selecting a generic transcoder if none of the one or more specific transcoders are a best match to the set of characteristics. To the contrary, Guck teaches that if no converter object is found within the hierarchy, an error is returned to the client or a document is returned "as is" to the client. This is contrary to the present invention, where a generic transcoder is selected if none of the specific transcoders in the transcoder data structure is a best match to the set of characteristics included in the request. Therefore, not only does Guck fail to mention any specific transcoder, generic transcoder, or selecting a generic transcoder if none of the specific transcoders is a best match to the set of characteristics, Guck actually teaches away from the present invention by specifically teaching to return either an error or the document "as is" to the client, as opposed to returning a generic transcoder. Therefore, Guck does not teach or suggest the features of claims 1, 11, 16, and 26 of the present invention.

As to independent claims 3 and 4, Guck does not teach a set of characteristics that includes a content type and a set of client characteristics (claim 3) or a tuple including

parameters for a document type definition, an application, a device, and a user (claim 4).
The Office Action alleges that Guck teaches these features at column 4, lines 47-63,
which reads as follows:

> The dynamic conversion methodology technique utilizes a
> "converter", which is another type of "objects" within the database. Each
> converter object has the ability to transform one kind of resource object
> into another kind of resource object. When a User requests a document's
> content in a format different than that in which it is currently encoded,
> and/or if the document is requested using a protocol with which the
> document is not immediately transferable, the server automatically finds
> and utilizes a converter object which transforms the document's content to
> a format compatible with the request. The selection of a converter object
> and the dynamic conversion of the document's content take place
> automatically, without the requesting User aware of the operation and
> without the document's author having to specially prepare the document
> before hand.

In the above section, Guck merely teaches that a user may request a document's
content to be in a format that is different from which it is currently encoded. However,
nowhere in the above section, or any other section, of the reference does Guck teach or
suggest that the user request includes a set of characteristics, which includes a set of
client characteristics or a tuple including parameters for a document type definition, an
application, a device, and a user. As discussed above in arguments presented for claims
1, 11, 16, and 26, Guck merely teaches searching a converter hierarchy based on an input
resource type, an output resource type, or a type of conversion. Guck does not teach or
suggest that the client request includes a set of client characteristics, or parameters for a
document type definition, an application, a device, or a user.

To the contrary, at column 9, lines 10-24, Guck teaches that the client performs a
"get" request for the document the client seek in accordance with the protocol he is using
by accompanying the request with some kind of identification of the document such as a
file name or message id. The server process then uses this identification information to
call the Database Manager and attempts to locate a resource object in the Database that
corresponds to the document. Thus, Guck merely teaches a request that includes
information uniquely identifying the document to be converted, not a set of client
characteristics, or parameters for a document type definition, an application, a device, or

a user. Therefore, Guck does not teach or suggest the features of claims 3 and 4 of the present invention.

As to independent claim 6, which is representative of claims 21 and 27 with regard to similarly recited subject matter, Guck does not teach or suggest selecting a transcoder from a set of transcoders includes using the identification information for the client originating the request to perform a look up of a transcoder corresponding to the identification information for the client originating the request in a transcoder data structure having entries for a plurality of transcoders. The Office Action alleges that Guck teaches these features at column 11, line 34 to column 12, line 67, where Guck teaches a dynamic conversion methodology as shown in Figure 9 below:
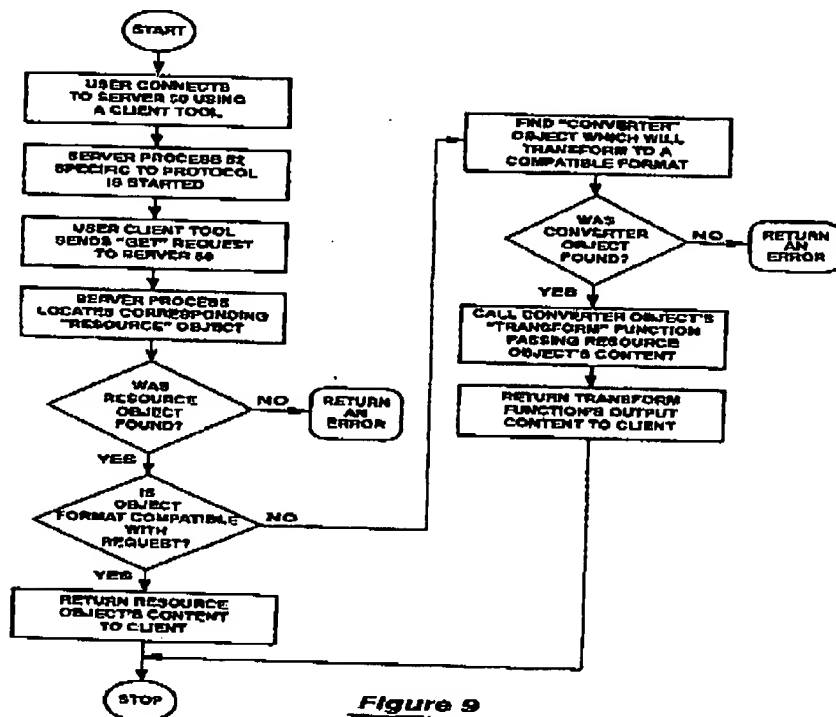

Figure 9

As shown in Figure 9, the user performs a "get" request to retrieve a document from the server. The "get" request is accompanied with an identification of a document, such as a file name or a message id. The server process uses the identification information to call the database manager to locate a resource object in the database. Thus, the server process of Guck uses an identification of the document, not identification for the client originating the request, to locate a resource object. By using

the resource object, the server process converts the document's content into a format that is compatible with the client's protocol. Guck is not interested in identifying a converter based on the client originating the request. Rather, Guck is only interested in the format of the document in the "get" request, such that a resource object whose content is compatible with the client's protocol may be located. Since Guck does not teach or suggest any identification information for the client originating the request, Guck does not and would not teach or suggest performing a look up of a transcoder corresponding to the identification information for the client originating the request, as recited in claims 6, 21, and 27 of the present invention.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that Guck does not teach or suggest the features of claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26, and 27. At least by virtue of their dependency on claims 1, 6, 16, and 21 respectively, Guck does not teach or suggest the features of dependent claims 5, 7-10, 18-20, 22-25, and 28-30. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 3-11, 16, and 18-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

In addition, Guck does not teach or suggest the specific features as recited in dependent claims 5, 7-10, 18-20, 22-25, and 28-30. For example, with regard to claim 5, which is representative of claims 10 and 20 with regard to similarly recited subject matter, Guck does not teach or suggest an application characteristic identifying an application on the client that is to receive the content and a device characteristic identifying a type of device that the client is, or attempting to find a best match transcoder in the transcoder data structure based on the device characteristic if a best match transcoder is not found based on the application characteristic.

The Office Action alleges that Guck teaches these features at column 11, line 34 to column 12, line 67, where Guck teaches a dynamic conversion methodology as shown in **Figure 9** above. However, in **Figure 9**, Guck merely teaches identifying a document from the "get" request based on an identification of the document, such as a file name or a message id. Guck does not teach or suggest an application characteristic identifying an application on the client, a device characteristic identifying a type of device of the client, or finding a best match transcoder in the transcoder data structure based on the device

characteristic if a best match converter is not found based on the application characteristic.

At column 12, lines 10-25, Guck teaches an example dynamic conversion session, where a client sends a "get" request for a file whose file name is "info.rtf". The "get" request includes a parameter that requests the file in image/tiff format. However, the content corresponding Virtual File object is stored in text/rtf format. Thus, a File-to-File Converter object is located which converts text/rtf files to image/tiff files. Guck identifies a file name and the format of the file content from the "get" request. Guck does not identify an application on the client or the type of device of the client from the "get" request. Therefore, Guck does not teach or suggest an application characteristic or a device characteristic, let alone attempting to find a best match transcoder in the transcoder data structure based on the device characteristic if a best match converter is not found based on the application characteristic, as recited in claims 5, 10, and 20 of the present invention.

Thus, in addition to their dependency on claims 1, 6, 16, and 21, respectively, Applicants respectfully submit that Guck does not teach or suggest the specific features of claims 5, 7-10, 18-20, 22-25, and 28-30. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of rejections to claims 1, 3-11, 16, and 18-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

II.   35 U.S.C. § 103(a), Alleged Obviousness, Claim 29

The Office Action rejects claim 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Guck in view of Becker et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,878,223. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As to claim 29, the Office Action states:

> It would have been obvious for one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Guck by incorporating the step of displaying information to the user based on user preferences as taught by Becker because doing so would allow the user to view desired information in a preferred size or color without modifying the received data and therefore having more efficient communication method by saving time rather than modifying data after every retrieval.

Office Action dated September 23, 2004, page 6.

Becker does not teach output preferences of a user that include one or more of particular color preferences, screen layout preferences, and sound output preferences. As discussed in the Abstract, Becker teaches a computer that sends one or more requesting computers a most likely predicted-to-be selected page of information by determining a preference factor for this page based on one or more pages that are requested by the client.

The Office Action alleges that it would have been obvious for one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Guck by incorporating the step of displaying information to the user based on user preferences as taught by Becker, because doing so would allow the user to view desired information in a preferred size or color without modifying the received data, and therefore having more efficient communication methods by saving time rather than modifying data after every retrieval. Applicants respectfully disagree.

At column 2, lines 10-15, Becker is interested in sending pages of information from a server computer to a requesting computer based on a prediction by the server computer that those pages are likely to be selected next by the user of the requesting computer. The estimation information is kept in the format of a table that is used to identify and/or predict those pages that are often requested following each requested page or sequence of pages (column 2, lines 35-41).

However, Becker is not interested in the output preferences of a user, including color preferences, screen layout preferences, or sound output preferences. At column 2, lines 48-54, Becker only teaches that once the predicted-to-be selected page is in the cache, the requesting computer can update the appearance of the link (i.e. by changing the color or appearance of the link indicator, for example, color of text) to indicate to the user that the page represented by that link is available in local cache. Thus, Becker changes the color of the text or link to indicate to user that the page represented by the link is available in the local cache. Becker does not change the color of the text based on any output preference of the user. In addition, there is no teaching or suggestion of any screen layout preferences or sound output preferences in Becker. The Office Action merely asserts that Becker teaches such features.

Therefore, it would not have been obvious to a person or ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to display information to the user based on user preferences as alleged by the Examiner, because Becker merely teaches displaying the text or the link for a page to the user based on whether the page represented by the link is available in the local cache, not based on the output preferences of the user. Therefore, a person of ordinary skill in the art would not have been led to modify Becker's teaching to arrive at output preferences of the user, as recited in claim 29 of the present invention.

III.   Conclusion

It is respectfully urged that the subject application is patentable over the cited references and is now in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the Examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

DATE: ___12/20/04___

Respectfully submitted,

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